

Juror Appreciation Kit



COURTS THROUGHOUT THE NATION CELEBRATE JUROR APPRECIATION WEEK ANNUALLY. We hope that you will join the celebration in honor of jurors and the jury system.

By helping courts implement Juror Appreciation Week, the American Bar Association Commission on the American Jury hopes to

- Reinforce public confidence in the justice system
- Improve communication with jurors and employers
- Disseminate an important and positive message to the public about jury service

We are urging courts across the nation to celebrate **Juror Appreciation Week, May 2–6, 2005**, immediately following Law Day on May 1. This kit describes a variety of juror appreciation activities to help courts devise programs that will honor local citizens who serve as jurors.

ABA Commission ★★★★★★
on the American Jury



JUROR APPRECIATION ACTIVITIES

Thank-You Gifts

- Distribute juror appreciation certificates to jurors
- Provide coffee, donuts, and other refreshments for jurors
- Distribute souvenirs or gifts
 - Items such as mugs, pens or bookmarks, imprinted with a juror appreciation message
 - Gavel key chains
 - “I’ve Been a Juror” buttons
 - A free daily newspaper
 - Free tickets to a local sporting event
- Give door prizes such as tee shirts or gift baskets
- Have court personnel wear buttons that say “We Appreciate Our Jurors”

Special Presentations or Events

- Invite high-court officials and/or celebrities to welcome jurors
- Present awards, certificates or thank-you cards to
 - Jurors who have made extra efforts to serve (e.g., a disabled juror who braved a snowstorm to get to jury service)
 - Jurors serving during Juror Appreciation Week, including any invited former jurors
 - Celebrities who have served in the previous year
 - Students who have written award-winning essays about the jury or jury service
- Arrange for proclamations or resolutions by local government in honor of Juror Appreciation Week
- Ask newspapers to donate ad space to publish the resolution or proclamation
- Hang student-created posters or banners and honor the student artists
- Organize lunch-hour presentations or concerts in or near the courthouse
- Set up an information fair with booths near the courthouse

continued

Special Presentations or Events (continued)

- Plan presentations or lectures by
 - A court team about various roles in the court (e.g., judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, court clerk, court reporter)
 - A local law enforcement official about self-defense
 - Non-profit organizations about community service activities and opportunities
 - Court staff regarding court programs and initiatives
- Distribute brochures for walking tours of historical sites or interesting landmarks close to the courthouse

Public Outreach and Education

- Air public service announcements on radio
- Publish op-ed pieces about jury service experiences or the role of the jury
- Conduct mock trials at local colleges or high schools, allowing students to be jurors
- Conduct the ABA's *Dialogue on the American Jury* (available at www.abanet.org/jury/dialogue.html) at local colleges or high schools
- Show juror orientation videos at community centers, local colleges, or local high schools

Public Involvement

- Ask local public officials or governments (e.g., city councils, county legislatures) to issue resolutions or proclamations honoring Juror Appreciation Week
- Ask local newspapers to issue editorials honoring Juror Appreciation Week
- Ask local media to cover Juror Appreciation activities
- Conduct essay or poster design contests for high school, college and graduate students and announce winners during Juror Appreciation activities
- Collaborate with public schools to have students develop jury room banners
- Send court speakers to schools for special presentations

Outreach to Employers

- Encourage employers to pay jurors' salaries during service
- Present awards to employers who make jury service easy for their employees
- Host employer luncheons to thank them for supporting the jury system



SAMPLE RESOLUTION BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The County/City of _____ is proud to join the _____ Court in honoring citizens who serve as jurors in _____ County.

We also extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all employers who support the jury system by paying their employees for jury service. In honoring the excellent service and commitment of citizens who perform jury duty, we hope to reinforce public confidence in the justice system, improve communication with jurors and employers, and disseminate an important and positive message about jury service.

Date: _____

By: _____



SAMPLE PROCLAMATION IN APPRECIATION OF JURY SERVICE

Whereas, the right to a trial by jury is one of the core values of American citizenship; and

Whereas, the obligation and privilege to serve as a juror are as fundamental to our democracy as the right to vote; and

Whereas, our court depends upon citizens to serve as jurors; and

Whereas, service by citizens as jurors is indispensable to the judicial system; and

Whereas, all citizens should be encouraged to respond when summoned for jury service; and

Whereas, a continuing and imperative goal for the courts, the bar, and the broader community is to ensure that jury selection and jury service are fair, effective, and not unduly burdensome on anyone; and

Whereas, one of the most significant actions a court system can take is to show appreciation for the jury system and for the [tens of] [hundreds of] thousands of citizens who annually give their time and talents to serve on juries.

Be it resolved that _____, together with the _____ court in the _____, is committed to the following goals:

- educating the public about jury duty and the importance of jury service;
- applauding the efforts of jurors who fulfill their civic duty;
- ensuring that the responsibility of jury service is shared fairly by supporting employees who are called upon to serve as jurors;
- ensuring that the responsibility of jury service is shared fairly among citizens and that a fair cross section of the community is called for jury service;
- ensuring that all jurors are treated with respect and that their service is not unduly burdensome;
- providing jurors with tools that will assist their decision making; and
- continuing to improve the jury system by encouraging productive dialogue between jurors and court officials.

Be it further resolved that the week of May 2–6, 2005 be designated “Jury Appreciation Week” in _____ and that the undersigned support(s) the celebration of this week, which shall include various activities in pursuit of the above goals.



SAMPLE CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FOR JURORS

The Unified Court System of the State of New York
Certificate of Appreciation



*Presented in recognition of
service as a juror*

Chief Judge of the State of New York

Chief Administrative Judge

Administrative Judge

Commissioner of Jurors



SAMPLE OP-ED ARTICLE

Monday, January 24, 2005

New York Law Journal

New York State Bar Association Annual Meeting

2005: The Year of the Jury

State and national initiatives focus attention on celebrating and improving the system.

BY JUDITH S. KAYE

IMPROVING jury service has been an ongoing objective for the past decade, and will continue to be a high priority for the Unified Court System. Why, then, do I think of 2005 as The Year of the Jury?

The reason is that, this year, there will be special national focus on the subject of jurors and juries, presenting several unique opportunities for the New York State Bar Association and local bar associations — and bar associations nationwide — to celebrate our nation's prized jury system.

ABA American Jury Initiative

The catalyst for a nationwide spotlight on the jury is Robert Grey, president of the American Bar Association, who chose the

American jury as the signature initiative of his term of office.

Mr. Grey formed The American Jury Project, a group that has drafted a comprehensive set of ABA Principles for Juries and Jury Trials, which will be submitted for adoption to the House of Delegates at its midyear meeting next month in Salt Lake City. (A copy is available at www.abajury.org.) Intended to consolidate, improve and update the ABA's existing Jury Standards, the draft covers a wide range of topics, including composition of the jury pool, voir dire, juror privacy, aiding juror comprehension



(as by allowing note-taking and written questions), preliminary and interim instructions, and permitting jurors to discuss evi-

dence in civil cases during trial. The draft principles undoubtedly will spark lively discussion throughout the nation's legal community.

The second part of Mr. Grey's jury initiative was the formation of a Commission on the

American Jury, with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor as honorary chair, and three co-chairs: Manuel Sanchez, a Chicago trial lawyer, computer science professor, Oscar Criner, who was foreperson in the Arthur Andersen Enron-related trial in Houston, and me.

We know that too many view jury service as just a nuisance, something to be avoided, rather

Judith S. Kaye is Chief Judge of the State of New York.

continued

than a responsibility and privilege of citizenship. We also know that too many “insiders” — lawyers, judges, court personnel — think of their own habits and convenience ahead of those of the public called to serve. Our commission’s task is outreach — to the public, to employers, to the profession, to the courts — to foster positive attitudes about jury service and change negative ones. How will we do this?

Jury Activities in 2005

A major opportunity to focus public attention on this important topic will be Law Day, celebrated May 2. Law Day events have become a tradition throughout New York — for the courts, the bar, schools, citizen groups and more. The ABA theme for Law Day 2005 is “The American Jury: ‘We the People’ in Action,” and we will offer ideas and materials to inspire Law Day celebrations centered on the importance of the jury system and the value of jury service. The commission will be encouraging all states to follow their Law Day celebrations with a full Juror Appreciation Week, an especially good time for all of us to go into courthouses and schoolhouses and talk about the American jury.

Another major opportunity to reach out to the public is through the ABA’s Dialogue on the American Jury, following its successful Dialogue on Freedom (inspired by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy), and its dialogue on *Brown v. Board of*

Education. The dialogue on the jury (which will be available from the ABA in February) offers stimulating examples and provocative questions, thus assisting judges and lawyers in leading interactive group discussions about jury service. At its midyear meeting, the ABA will feature the presentation of a dialogue to school students by Utah’s chief justice — a video that hopefully will become a model for others to follow.

The commission plans a steady campaign of advertisements, bookmarks, posters, a national juror Web site and much more to raise public awareness. Our bookmarks, which we hope will soon become widely available, include suggestions directed to judges, lawyers, jury administrators and employers for improving the jury experience. And we are actively pressing the U.S. Postal Service for a commemorative stamp honoring jurors.

In New York, we have made enormous advances in jury service since the 1994 report of our blue-ribbon task force, The Jury Project, chaired by now-U.S. District Judge Colleen McMahon. Ten years later, the New York Commission on the Jury, chaired by Mark Zauderer, issued its recommendations for a new phase of jury improvements — now being implemented — that focus on making good use of juror time and improving communication, scheduling, time management and facilities.

While we already have a healthy start on jury improvement in New York, I welcome the ABA spotlight and the added impetus The Year of

the Jury will provide. My own privileged years as chief judge have more than amply confirmed for me that change is difficult, especially in a court system as huge and complex as ours. But then again, the mountain has moved. As I am reminded almost daily by New Yorkers, in so many ways the jury experience has improved: no automatic exemptions (everyone shares the benefit, and the burden), no automatic sequestration, better pay, better facilities, better treatment.

But over the years, juror attitudes have changed as well. Jurors today have been sensitized, and educated, to expect more of us. They expect, for example, that their time will be prioritized and used efficiently; that modern technology will be applied to shorten court appearances (or eliminate them, if possible); that we will make greater efforts to enhance comprehension, however arcane the subject matter; that their privacy will be valued. And voluminous research, filling the literature, establishes that these expectations can be met, and increasingly are being met.

Indeed, The Year of the Jury promises to be an interesting time for all of us.

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SAMPLE GUEST EDITORIAL

From the *Sentinel* of Klickitat County, Washington, January 15, 1998

Participating in jury trial is a citizen's duty

Guest Commentary by E. Thompson Reynolds, Superior Court Judge

One day you open your mail and there it is — a notice that you have been called to jury duty. Most people's first reaction is, "How can I get excused?" and "If I serve I'll lose a day or more of pay."

A trial by jury is a fundamental right which we enjoy in this country. This right could not exist if our citizens were not willing to serve as jurors. Our nation doesn't require much of us other than paying our taxes, serving in the military during times of draft, and serving on juries when called. This is a small price, indeed, for living in a free society.

In the state of Washington, potential jurors are selected from a combined list of all registered voters plus those persons with drivers licenses or state issued identification cards. The county clerk is provided with names randomly selected from the combined list. These people are sent a summons and a questionnaire to fill out and return to the clerk's office.

If a jury is needed in any district or superior court for the next month, a certain number of people on the list will be notified to appear to serve as jurors. Jurors are not required to serve more than one month during a year unless special circumstances prevail.

Approximately 40 potential jurors are called for a 12-member jury. Calling a greater number than is actually needed is necessary because some potential jurors will be excused during the selection process. Those that are not selected for a particular jury are excused for that trial, but are subject to being called for another trial during the month.

Klickitat County Superior Court has had five jury trials in 1996 and six in 1997. The average length of trial is two days. District Court trials average a day in length. Some months go by without any juries being called.

Willful failure to respond to either the questionnaire or notification of a service date may result in penalties (i.e. jail, fine or both) for contempt of court.

Excuses from jury duty may be granted by the judge for good cause. Request for excusal is made by filling out the questionnaire or by attaching a separate letter and returning it to the clerk's office. Usually, loss of income from serving is not considered a valid excuse. The clerk's office does not determine who is required to serve on jury duty. The clerks are available to assist with questions and appreciate your understanding when trying to work out a reasonable solution.

At the conclusion of a jury trial, the superior court sends questionnaires to those who serve. The overwhelming majority of those responding, state that they had a good experience serving as a juror and would recommend it to those being called for future service.

So, when you find the notice of jury service in your mail, I hope you consider the importance of jury duty and your experience as a juror will be as rewarding to you as it was for those who served before you.



SAMPLE RADIO SPOTS

30-Second Radio Spot

Did you know that 95 percent of the world's jury trials are held here in America?

Juries are one of the ways American society guarantees the rights of citizens on trial... unless you don't answer your jury summons.

Your right to a jury trial is like so many other American rights—it comes with responsibility. The American justice system is the envy of the world... but it only works when we do our part.

It's Juror Appreciation Week, and [the American Bar Association Commission on the American Jury or your own organization name here] reminds you: Do your jury duty.

60-Second Radio Spot

The Sixth Amendment says,

(Voice reading like in courtroom) "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury..."

Did you know that 95 percent of the world's jury trials are held here in America? Juries are one of the ways American society guarantees the rights of citizens on trial. It may not be perfect, but it's the best the world has to offer... unless you don't answer your jury summons.

(Second voice) "Has the jury reached a verdict?" (Lots of echo here, no jury)

Your right to a jury trial is like so many other American rights—it comes with responsibility. We all hope we'll never need a jury of our peers, but somebody needs one every single day. We owe it to our fellow Americans to answer that call.

The American justice system is the envy of the world... but it only works when we do our part.

It's Juror Appreciation Week, and [the American Bar Association Commission on the American Jury or your organization name here] reminds you: Do your jury duty.



SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

(Date)

For further information contact:
(Insert name and phone number)

(INSERT NAME) COURT CELEBRATES JUROR APPRECIATION WEEK

(City, Date)—(Name of Court) is sponsoring Juror Appreciation Week activities to recognize (name) County residents who have completed jury duty and to highlight the honor and importance of serving on a jury.

Included in the week's activities are: (list activities, days and times)

According to (name of Presiding Judge), the objective of Juror Appreciation Week is to show past and prospective jurors that their contributions are greatly appreciated by the Court.

“Jury service is a vital aspect of our government,” said (last name).
“When you serve as juror, you not only serve your country, but you serve as an integral part of the justice system.”

(Last name) added that the (name) court has implemented several changes to improve jury duty in the County including: (list improvements).

“We want every juror to feel appreciated and to know how much we value their time and commitment to our system of justice,” (last name) said.



POSTER AVAILABLE FROM WASHINGTON STATE

Jury Duty... An Obligation and An Honor.

During Washington State **Juror Appreciation Week**, your local judges, county clerk, and court staff would like to take this opportunity to extend our **sincere gratitude** to those of you who served on jury duty during the past year.

Through your service, you have ensured that the right to trial by a jury is guaranteed for all in our community.

We would also like to thank the many private companies, government agencies, small businesses, school districts, and all those who encourage and support their employees when they are called to jury service.

Your local courts depend on your service – **thank you for doing your duty!**

For information on jury service visit the Washington State Courts' website at www.courts.wa.gov

"My experience as a juror was an eye-opener, more interesting than I had ever expected. I regard it as one of the most important things I've ever done. It was a privilege."

For further information, contact Wendy.Ferrell@courts.wa.gov.



POSTER AVAILABLE FROM THE ABA



JURY SERVICE: Everyone Plays a Part.

We the People...

SUGGESTIONS FOR JUDGES

- Welcome new jurors.
- When selecting a jury, call only the number of jurors realistically needed.
- Jury service is a privilege and a burden. Don't lightly excuse jurors for hardship.
- Respect and be sensitive to jurors' privacy.
- Require serious settlement discussions before jury selection begins.
- Jurors' time deserves priority. Don't do other business on their time.
- Stick to the trial schedule. Explain delays.
- Use plain English. Take every opportunity to improve juror comprehension.
- Be sensitive to maintaining impartiality. Jurors may interpret your nonverbal behavior as cues about the case.
- Always thank jurors for their service.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LAWYERS

- Treat jurors as the visiting judges that they are, with courtesy and respect.
- Jurors' time deserves priority. Don't do other business on their time.
- Negotiate settlements before jury selection begins.
- Resolve scheduling conflicts before jurors are called.
- Be prepared for trial when it is scheduled.
- Be on time.
- Respect and be sensitive to jurors' privacy. Don't invade privacy when it isn't necessary.
- Respect jurors' intelligence. Repetition and duplication insult them.
- Use modern techniques and technology to improve jurors' comprehension.
- Always thank jurors for their service. Respect their decision.

SUGGESTIONS FOR JURY ADMINISTRATORS

- Include as many eligible citizens as possible in the pool of available jurors.
- When summoning jurors, call only the number realistically needed.
- Give jurors the information they need, including a complete orientation at the courthouse.
- Use the telephone and Internet for communicating with jurors.
- Treat jurors as the visiting judges that they are, with courtesy and respect. Answer jurors' questions completely and patiently.
- Start on time. Tell jurors how their time will be used. Explain delays.
- Provide jurors with adequate facilities, including clean restrooms.
- Help jurors make good use of waiting time by supplying appropriate reading material, work areas, Internet access.
- Release jurors as soon as they are no longer needed. Process juror fee payments without delay.
- Always thank jurors for their service.

SUGGESTIONS FOR JURORS

When you receive your jury summons:

- Tell your employer as soon as possible that you've been called to serve.
- Dress respectfully when you go to the courthouse.
- Be prepared to fill some down time. Bring something to read.
- Answer all questions you are asked honestly and completely.
- If there's something you don't understand, ask the judge or other court personnel.

When you sit on a trial:

- Use only the evidence you are given.
- Do not do your own "research."
- Write a note to the judge if you have any questions about the trial.
- Follow the judge's instructions. Do not interpret the judge's conduct as a cue about the case.
- Respect each other and each other's opinions.

SUGGESTIONS FOR EMPLOYERS

- Remember that jury service is an obligation of citizenship.
- Support employees' right to serve.
- Encourage employees at all levels to serve.
- Follow local laws governing payment of jurors.
- Maintain employee pay and benefits beyond legal requirements where practical.
- Establish personnel policies covering jury service.
- Communicate your jury service policies clearly, especially regarding time off and compensation during jury service.
- Remain familiar with local laws and rules governing jury service.
- Remember that your local jury office can direct you to the applicable law and rules.
- If you have specific questions, communicate with your local jury office.

...In Action





BOOKMARKS AVAILABLE FROM THE ABA

ABA Commission ***
on the American Jury**

We the People...
IN ACTION

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ABA
Defending Liberty
Pursuing Justice
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

ABA Commission ***
on the American Jury**

We the People...
IN ACTION

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATORS

SUGGESTIONS FOR JUDGES

SUGGESTIONS FOR JURORS

SUGGESTIONS FOR LAWYERS

ABA Commission ***
on the American Jury**

We the People...
IN ACTION

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